

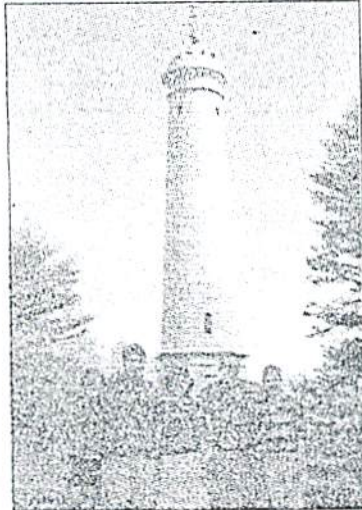
Outdoor Theatre Comes to Town

By KEITH L. MARTIN

While Boston and other cities have "Shakespeare in the Park," Duxbury will soon have "Corneille at the Monument."

Outdoor theatre will make its return to town this July with an ambitious new performance company of young residents turning the dilapidated stage behind the Myles Standish Monument into the magical setting for Pierre Corneille's 17th century fable, *The Illusion*.

"The area is such a romantic setting that it suits the play continued on page 15



The Gurnet Theatre Project will stage their first production outdoors at the Myles Standish Reservation.

Duxbury Clipper

Wednesday, June 29, 2005

Theatre Troupe Stages Monumental Production

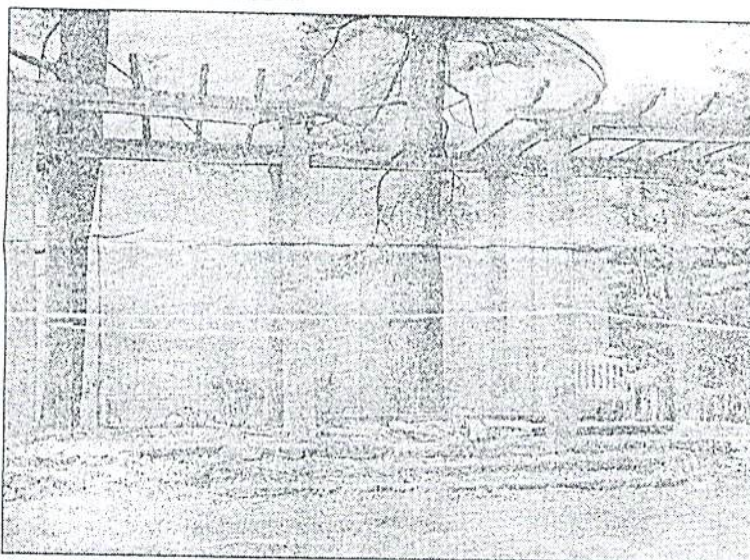
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well," said Brian Fahey, co-founder of the Gurnet Theatre Project. "This is the first place we thought of to do outdoor theatre in Duxbury."

Those thoughts were born on a late night this winter as Fahey, a 2000 graduate of Duxbury High School and 2004 graduate of Northeastern University, was talking with fellow DHS class of 2000 alum Michelle Kordis about forming their own theatre company for summer performances in town.

The space located directly behind the monument is one lined with grass, and ideal for picnicking, leading up to a stone patio and wooden pergola that form a perfect stage for those with imaginations like Kordis.

"As kids, my brother Kevin and I would come up here and take to the stage to perform for our parents and dogs," said Kordis, a 2004 graduate of Smith College. "So we started inquiring about the space at the monument and then everything just took off. We went to town hall to get our business permit, went to the bank and set up an



Damaged by time and last month's nor'easter, the patio and wooden pergola at the Myles Standish Reservation will get a makeover to become a working stage in time for the July 21-24 free productions of *The Illusion*.

and paperwork filed to the state's parks division to utilize the land at the Myles Standish Monument State Reservation, next came picking the performance. At Northeastern, Fahey, a theatre major, took a set design course and worked with Corneille's obscure work, which was adapted to English by Pulitzer Prize winning author Tony Kushner to give it a modern makeover.

The play follows a lawyer who approaches the mystical lair of a sorcerer to find out about the son he abandoned as

him with a final twist sure to amuse the audience.

Fahey said that he wanted to bring this tale to town because of the appreciation for arts in Duxbury and to add one more element to summers in this ideal setting.

"There is a lot that goes on here during the summer like boating and beach-going, but nothing like this," he said. "Everyone is outdoors during the summer and most are surprised when they learn about the space at the monument. So why not use it for free outdoor theatre?"

Fahey and Kordis didn't have to go far for performers and staff to stage the play, calling upon friends and family members to fill their playbill with names.

"Our first requirement was enthusiasm for the show," said Kordis. "Talent? Yes. But enthusiasm for the process

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— Gurnet Theatre Project co-founder Brian Fahey

account and in one day, we were official."

With the company formed

a child. Through magical visions, the father sees his son in a number of scenarios that bewilder, amuse and anger

was key and we started by sending the script around to friends. We were lucky that there are so many theatre people in Duxbury."

Those people even included Kordis' brothers, Kevin and Keith, who have joined the Project for their inaugural performance.

With brother Keith behind the scenes as assistant stage manager, Kevin will be front and center on-stage as Matamore, who Fahey says "steals the show."

"They told me about the project and that I'd be perfect for the role as a lunatic, so I thought that was great," said Kevin Kordis, a DHS graduate in 2002 and student at UMass. "Michelle and I have both done theatre before, but this will be our first time on-stage together."

The Illusion will also be a family affair for Kristen and Abbe Schnibbe, who last appeared on the same stage in 2002's *The Music Man* with the Bay Players.

"Brian sent me an e-mail about the Project and I said 'yes' without a script," said Kristen, DHS class of 2003 and the love interest in the play. "Being with Abbe will

also be great as sometimes sisters don't get along, but this is something we are both interested in and want to do so much."

Abbe, 15, echoed her sister's sentiments, saying she is "pumped" to work as an assistant stage manager on the performance after being on stage in school performances.

As the entire cast and crew spend June finishing up read-through sessions and securing sponsorship to help defray some of the cost of their free show, Fahey is hopeful that this first-time event for the Project will not be their last in Duxbury.

"We founded this company to do one show, but it took on a life of its own and we are hopeful to keep going," he said. "Every theatre major says 'when I have my own company...', so this is a dream come true for us."

The Illusion runs July 21-24 free of charge with live music beginning at 5:30 p.m. and performances at 6 p.m. at the Myles Standish Reservation. For more information on the Project, plus sponsorship and advertising opportunities, e-mail gurnettheatreproject@gmail.com